



FEMALE ATHLETE CATEGORY TESTING (FACT)

Following the World Athletics new Eligibility rules C3.3A and C3.5A (<https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/book-of-rules>) for Female Athlete Category Testing that came into effect on 1 September 2025, all female athletes aiming to compete in any World Athletics senior or U20 championship, Diamond League meeting, or a Marathon Majors Series event must be in possession of a Gene Test Certificate in order to be eligible to compete.

Athletes must specifically undertake a 'SRY gene test' to comply with WA testing requirements. This is a once-in-a-lifetime test and may be taken via a dry blood spot or blood test. Athletes should then keep their test certificate safe and **only upload it when requested by World Athletics**, following their entry to the relevant championship, Diamond League meeting or Marathon Majors Series event. It is the athlete's responsibility to undertake the test, keep their certificate safe and to upload it when requested. Please see the information in the sections below to find out how to take a test.

UKA recommends that all athletes who are of a performance standard to be competing in international championships and competitions **should plan early to take a SRY Gene Test and not wait to be selected**. World Athletics has indicated to Member Federations that Female Athlete Category Testing will continue to expand to include the large majority of international competitions over the coming seasons.

For the European Championships and other EA competitions in 2026, Member Federations have not been notified by European Athletics that it intends to introduce FACT. UKA has also not received any notification from the AIU.

Female Athlete Category Testing currently does not apply to Para Athletes.

HOW TO TAKE A TEST

We have sourced the following different location options for testing.

Leeds / Sheffield – Living Care (<https://www.livingcare.co.uk/treatments/sry-gender-testing>)

- Call 0113 249 4655 or email private.services@livingcare.co.uk to book a test directly
- You will need to attend the clinic for a blood test
- Results will be sent directly to you via a secure platform
- Cost of test is £185

London - The Doctors Laboratory (<https://www.tdlpathology.com/>)

- Complete this form to request a test - [SRY Gender Testing – Fill in form](#)
- You will be sent a Consent Form via DocuSign for review
- Once complete UKA Medical Admin will send you a blood test form and referral
- Take form to TDL Patient Reception 76 Wimpole Street, London W1G 9RT for blood test between hours of 0700 – 1900 Monday – Friday or 0700 – 1300 Saturday
- Results will be sent directly to you via a secure platform
- Cost of test is £185 – payment to be made at Patient Reception

Other UK locations – Nationwide Pathology (<https://nationwidepathology.co.uk/>)

- Complete this form to request a test [SRY Gender Testing – Fill in form](#)



- You will be sent a consent form via Docusign for review
- Once complete UKA Medical Administration will send you a blood test form and referral
- Contact 01858 571322 to book a blood test in directly at a convenient clinic for you. You will need to make payment over the phone when booking
- Results will be sent directly to you via a secure platform – ensure you provide email on booking
- Cost is £200 – payment to be made over the phone on booking

OTHER KEY INFORMATION

What if I cannot afford to take the test?

Please provide details of your situation to UK Athletics (medicaladmin@britishathletics.org.uk) and we will assess on a case-by-case basis.

How long will it take to get the test results?

You should allow two weeks to receive the results.

I've been selected for a Championship and do not have an SRY Gene Test, what do I do?

You should immediately contact the laboratories listed above to source the test with the fastest turnaround time. The timescales between selection and team departure are typically very tight. You will need to have taken the test in advance of departure and have your certificate before the final entries deadline published on the WA website. Please make the UKA Championship Team Manager aware of your situation. **We strongly recommend that athletes do not wait until they are on a longlist for championship selection before taking a test.** If you are not in possession of gene test certificate within the WA timescales, you will not be compliant with the new Eligibility rule.

What if I don't live in the UK?

If you are unable to access the testing in the UK, you will need to source an appropriate laboratory in the country you are training in. World Athletics will typically only accept SRY Gene Tests currently and therefore you will need to check that for a laboratory that can provide this test and not another type of gene test.

Once I have my test results, what next?

Keep your test results safe. If you are selected for a GB&NI team at a World Athletics Series championship, UKA will request you confirm that you have an SRY Gene Test certificate on the Medical Questionnaire. UK Athletics does not need to see the certificate and, for data protection, we will not be able to keep a copy of your certificate for you. Your test certificate will be used for all future competitions and so, providing you have access to it, you will not be required to take the test again.

World Athletics will notify you with a request via email for you to upload your certificate in advance of competing. World Athletics will give you instructions for the upload onto a secure platform. You should not send your certificate copy by email. You will receive confirmation that your certificate has been successfully uploaded. If you are not in possession of a certificate you will be considered ineligible to compete.

What is the process for athletes under the age of 18?

If an U18 athlete is aiming to compete in any of the competitions above, she will be required to undertake an SRY Gene Test. The laboratory will require parental/guardian consent. World Athletics



is currently developing education materials and additional support for under 18 athletes and more information will be available in advance of the World U20 Championships in 2026.

How confidential is the process?

The results of the test certificate are strictly confidential and will only be shared with the WA Medical Manager. If an athlete is under 18, results will be shared with her parent(s) or guardian.

How do I contact World Athletics if I have any questions or concerns?

More information is provided on the World Athletics website [World Athletics Home Page](#) | [World Athletics](#). You may contact the Medical Manager medical.confidential@worldathletics.org if you encounter any problems uploading to the platform once you receive a request.

If you have any concerns about the test result, you can speak to the WA Medical Manager who will provide appropriate support or guidance as necessary. If you have been selected to represent GB&NI for a World Athletics Championship, the Team Doctor can also provide advice, support and further signposting as needed.

2026 WA Competitions Where FACT is required:

- World Athletics Cross Country Championships
- World Athletics Indoor Championships
- World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships
- World Athletics Relays
- World Athletics U20 Championships
- World Athletics Road Running Championships
- The Ultimate Championships